

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PINS, PE

SUBJECT: POLITICAL PRISONERS IN PERU

TEXTS FOLLOW OF DOCUMENTS CITED IN SEPTTEL SAME SUBJECT.

A) LETTER FROM WILLIAM SONZSKI, 24 CONCORD ST., CAMBRIDGE,
MASS. 02138, DATED FEB 7, 1977, TO PRESIDENT MORALES
BERMUDEZ, PALACIO PRESIDENCIAL, LIMA:

QUOTE DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I UNDERSTAND FROM AMNESTY INTER-
NATIONAL, OF WHICH I AM A MEMBER, THAT THE FOLLOWING MEN
ALONG WITH AT LEAST THREE OTHER PERSONS HAVE SUFFERED ABUSE
AT THE HANDS OF THE PERUVIAN INVESTIGATIVE POLICE(PIP):
ALFREDO PEZO PAREDES, OSCAR PEREZ MANRIQUE, RAUL RODRIGUEZ
CHALCO.

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ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED BY AI, THEY WERE ARRESTED
BY THE PIP IN MID NOVEMBER 1976, WERE SEVERELY BEATEN DURING
INTERROGATION BY AUTHORITIES, AND HAVE BEEN AND MAY STILL BE
HELD INCOMMUNICADO AT THE PREFECTURA DEPARTAMENTAL DE LIMA.

SINCE THEIR APPREHENSION IN MOQUEGUA MORE THAN TWO MONTHS

AGO, THEY HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN ALLOWED A MINUTE EACH OF VISITING TIME WITH RELATIVES, AND NO MORE.

AS A NOVELIST AND FELLOW HUMAN BEING, I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST INFORMATION ABOUT CHARGES AGAINST THEM AND OTHERS IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES. FURTHER FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS I ASK IN GOOD FAITH FOR INDICATIONS THAT ALL OF THEM ARE RECEIVING MEDICAL ATTENTION, LEGAL COUNSEL OF THEIR CHOICE, AND FAIR TREATMENT AS DESIGNATED BY THE UNITED NATIONS MINIMUM RULES FOR THE GUARANTEE OF PRISONER RIGHTS.

I AM ABLE TO WRITE TO YOU ON THIS MATTER WITHOUT A SENSE OF CONDESCENSION, FOR I AM AWARE OF OFFICIAL VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL LIBERTIES IN THIS, MY OWN COUNTRY AND SPEAK OUT AND ACT AGAINST SUCH PRACTICES HERE AS WELL AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. SINCERELY, WILLIAM SONZSKI UNQUOTE.

B) CIRCULAR FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL - CAMPAIGN FOR THE ABOLITION OF TORTURE, 53 THEOBALD'S ROAD, LONDON, DATED JANUARY 14, 1977, NUMBERED UA 009/77:

QUOTE AI HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION ABOUT THE ARREST OF AT LEAST SIX PERSONS IN THE REMOTE AREQUIPA REGION, IN THE CITY OF MOQUEGUA, 1,400 KILOMETRES SOUTH OF THE PERUVIAN CAPITAL, LIMA. AMONG THOSE ARRESTED WERE:

ALFREDO PEZO PAREDES, 27 YEARS OLD, CHEMICAL ENGINEER, MARRIED WITH TWO CHILDREN.
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OSCAR PEREZ MANRIQUE, 23, STUDENT OF ECONOMY IN AREQUIPA.

RAUL RODRIGUEZ CHALCO, 24, EMPLOYEE AND STUDENT OF ECONOMY, JUST MARRIED.

THE ARRESTS WERE CARRIED OUT BY THE PERUVIAN INVESTIGATIVE POLICE (PIP) ON 14 NOVEMBER 1976, CLAIMING THAT THE DETAINEES HAD ATTEMPTED TO ENDANGER THE SECURITY OF THE NATION.

THEY WERE HELD INCOMMUNICADO FIRST IN MOQUEGUA AND THEN IN AREQUIPA UNTIL THE END OF NOVEMBER WHEN THEY WERE TRANSFERRED TO LIMA, THE CAPITAL. SOME RELATIVES WERE ALLOWED BRIEF VISITS, REPORTEDLY FOR ONLY ONE MINUTE.

IT IS REPORTED THAT THE PRISONERS WERE SEVERELY BEATEN DURING INTERROGATION, BOTH IN AREQUIPA AND AFTER THEIR TRANSFER TO LIMA. SR. RODRIGUEZ HAS A SERIOUS RENAL

INFECTION.

AS FAR AS IS KNOWN, THEY ARE STILL HELD AT A POLICE STATION (PREFECTURA DEPARTAMENTAL DE LIMA), WHERE THEY ARE BELIEVED TO REMAIN INCOMMUNICADO.

BACKGROUND: ALTHOUGH SYSTEMATIC APPLICATION OF SOPHISTICATED FORMS OF TORTURE ARE NOT COMMONPLACE IN PERU, BEATINGS ARE OFTEN REPORTED DURING ARREST AND INTERROGATION, PARTICULARLY IN RURAL AREAS. SOME CASES OF SEVERE TORTURE WERE REPORTED DURING 1976, HOWEVER, INCLUDING ALLEGATIONS BY A TRADE UNIONIST, SR. VICTOR DIAZ, THAT HE WAS WHIPPED WITH ELECTRIC CORDS DURING HIS DETENTION IN JANUARY 1976, ALTHOUGH HIS CAPTORS WERE NOT CONCLUSIVELY IDENTIFIED AS MEMBERS OF SECURITY FORCES. IN THIS AND MANY OTHER CASES OF BRUTALITY IT HAS BEEN CLAIMED THAT MEMBERS OF PIP WERE RESPONSIBLE.

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IN 1974, FORMER PRESIDENT VELASCO ALVARADO LAUNCHED AN INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE, AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF PIP WERE BROUGHT TO TRIAL. HOWEVER, SINCE PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ TOOK POWER IN SEPTEMBER 1975, THE INVESTIGATIONS APPEAR TO HAVE SLOWED DOWN AND ALLEGATIONS OF POLICE BRUTALITY HAVE SOMEWHAT INCREASED, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE CONTINUED TO BE FEW ALLEGATIONS OF SERIOUS TORTURE. UNQUOTE. CIRCULAR ENDS WITH USUAL RECOMMENDATION TO WRITE HIGH OFFICIALS IN COUNTRY CONCERNED, IN THIS CASE: PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ, PRIME MINISTER ARBULU, OR PRESIDENT JOINT COMMAND OF ARMED FORCES JUAN SCHROTH CARLIN (SIC).
VANCE

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